



THE

# KNIGHT



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## A SURVEY OF THE SCIENCE OF LITHUANIAN NUMISMATICS AND SOME OF ITS PROBLEMS

By EUGENIJUS IVANAUSKAS

Speech read in Copenhagen, March 14, 1993

Almost every Lithuanian museum, dealing with history and art has collaborators who take care of numismatic collections. However, only numismatists of the Lithuanian National Museum are engaged in scientific research. V. Aleksiejunas is interested in the oldest Lithuanian coins, V. Ruzas--in medals. Professor M. Michelbertas from the Vilnius University investigates coins of the Roman Empire. He delivers lectures on numismatics to archaeologists. The author, presently employed at the Lithuanian scientific center of cultural heritage, has been making inventories of coin finds. Collectors M. Balcius and Zenonas Dukša are interested in finds of coins and ingots, and collections thereof in Lithuania and foreign countries. That is the whole potential for developing the science of numismatics in Lithuania.

No special publications, dealing with numismatics is available, neither does an association of numismatics exist. As a matter of fact, a collectors' union has been established and its meetings are held. However, it does not pursue any scientific interests. Not so long ago, Lithuanian numismatics was investigated by P. Karazija, E. Launcevicius, and S. Janusonis. They laid the grounds for further studies.



POVILAS KARAZIJA  
(1887-1955)

The first numismatic work published in Lithuania in 1930 was a study by P. Karazija "The Hoard of Vilnius," about a hoard of 13th century ingots found on the outskirts of Vilnius which weighed 50 kg. In 1941, he published materials on coin hoards of Aluona-Skleriai and Kruminiai, dating to the second half of the 15th century. After the war he prepared a study on the Sanciai hoard of coins, ingots and jewelry of the 14th century, which was never published.

E. Laucevicius published data on the Kaunas Mint which operated in the second half of the 17th century. S. Janusonis was interested in everything relating to Lithuanian numismatics. He collected a comprehensive library and a collection of archival duplicates and copies. He also published data on coinage of copper shillings of Jonas Kazimieras (1648-1668), inventory of the instruments, and premises of the Kaunas Mint. However, most of his articles remained in manuscripts. After S. Janusonis' death, Lithuanian numismatics declined. Efforts of contemporary numismatists cannot overbalance the activities of this scientist. Continued on Page 2.....

## LITH. COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION JOURNAL PUBLISHED

The premier issue of the Journal of the Lithuanian Collector's Association (Vilnius) has made its appearance. This colorful 64-page magazine contains a variety of collecting subjects, such as numismatics, philately, art, people, studies, and documents/information.

Professionally

printed, there are articles about "An Unknown Lithuanian grasis of Zygmantas the Great" --a 1535 grasis with a letter "A," an article about Rare Lithuanian Coins at Auctions Abroad; a first ever article about the Lietuviski Vekseliai, the Lithuanian Promissory Notes, that contains a youthful photograph of Jonas Kareckas-Kary; an article about the life of collector Algimantas Astikas,

author of the Lithuanian Military Orders & Decorations book, and an article by LKA president Edmundas Armoska about the state of collecting in post-Soviet Lithuania.

There is also an announcement about a Napoleon Society being formed in Lithuania, and the illustration of some Napoleonic medals in Vilnius. In the back of the magazine are summaries in several languages, including English.

Your editor of The Knight has several copies of this scholarly publication which is destined to remain in the permanent libraries of any Lithuanian collector. If interested in a copy, please write me for details. I also have colorful LKA pins that this group has issued.

## FAKE MONEY IN BANK BAGS

(FROM KAUNAS' DAY, June 16, 1994)

During the first 5 months of this year, over 900 old style [1991] 20 Litu notes (whose period of circulation ended June 1) and over 170 counterfeit 50 Litu notes were taken out of circulation. Most of them were found in bank money bags. Similarly, last year a 100 Litu note was turned over to the Kaunas police. According to the economic police, counterfeits of the old style 10 Litu, or new style 5, 20, and 50 Litu notes have not been documented.





## 2. A SURVEY OF THE SCIENCE OF LITHUANIAN NUMISMATICS AND SOME OF ITS PROBLEMS

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I would now like to say a few words about the subjects which are most close to me: collecting of coins and outsets of the numismatic science in Lithuania, about hoards and investigations of the oldest Lithuanian coins.

Only scanty fragmentary records about collections of coins in the 16th-17th centuries are available. It seems most likely that the elite started collecting coins only in the second half of the 16th century. We learn about Mikalojus Kristupas Radvilas' (1549-1616) passion for antiquities from his book "Journey to Jerusalem," published in 1601. In 1584 during his trip back from Venice, he was attacked by robbers and lost all the treasures and money. "When all the money was taken from us, I begged to leave at least some for food. Then, following the command of their chief, they put ten gold coins into my hand. There was an old coin of Emperor Valentine among them. It was in a bundle with other ancient coins. This showed that they had made a mess of everything they stole from us."



Mykalojus Kristupas Radvilas  
(The Orphan) (1549-1616)



Kristupas II Radvilas (1585-1640)

A description of the collection of Vilnius by Kristupas Radvilas (1585-1640) made in 1637 has been preserved. The collection included 305 golden and silver coins and medals. It is interesting to note that in 1872 some gold things were found in the coffin of Kristupas Radvilas at the evangelistic Lutheran church in Kedainiai. The Radvilas' collection which had been compiled during the centuries was confiscated in Nesvyzius (the present Byelorussia) by a Russian general Cicagov in 1812. There were 13,252 coins and medals in two chests of oak. The collection was presented to Charkov University.

An old collection of the Vilnius University met the same destiny. In 1803 it contained 268 medals and 195 coins. In 1832 it was taken away to St. Petersburg. Some of the coins went to the Hermitage, a few were sent to the University of Kiev in 1834.

Scientific interest in coins first sprang up at the University of Vilnius. On January 17, 1794, M. Karpavicius, professor of theology, delivered a lecture, "On Coins," during which he told the history of local and foreign coins, compared the value of ancient coins, and those in circulation at that time. He then said a few words about scientists engaged in numismatics. In 1824 J. Lelewel prepared a course of lectures on numismatics for the University. The course was approved by the University authorities. However, J. Lelewel was ousted from the department because of political reasons and the lectures were not delivered. In 1832, the University was closed down by Russians.

In 1855 a provisional archaeological commission and its museum of antiquities were established in Vilnius. In 1865 the museum was nationalized and simply vegetated, activities of the commission were suspended. Some excitement was felt in the activities of the museum in 1884 when F. Pokrovskij started working there. Finds of coins and date thereon were being collected

All during the 19th century private persons were actively collecting coins. In this relation, such people as a landlord from Kelme, Jurgis Gruzevskis, Eustachijus and Juozas Tiskevicius, and Adomas Plateris should be mentioned. In the first quarter of the 19th century, Leonas Uvainis wrote the first study about Lithuanian coins. Unfortunately, it was not preserved. In 1875 Juozas Tiskevicius published the first catalog of Lithuanian coins.

Coins were being collected by the Lithuanian scientific society and the Polish scientific society, both founded in 1907. Those two societies managed to collect about 10,000 coins till the year 1940. These collections served as a basis for the collections of the Lithuanian National Museum as well as the Lithuanian Museum of Arts.

In 1915 the numismatic collection of the Vilnius Museum of Antiquities was evacuated to the Rumiancev Museum in Russia. The collection included 5,300 coins, 1,333 medals, as well as 38 hoards, containing 9,061 coins. It has never been returned to Lithuania.

During the interim period between the first and second World Wars, there were many collections in Vilnius, which was then occupied by Poland. The most noteworthy are: Jan Bekes, A. Domaradzki, A. Gupenec, Zajonczkovski, Povilas Karazija, K. Stasys, and others. A. Domaradzki and other collectors were founders of the Vilnius society of numismatists. There were quite a few collectors in independent Lithuania as well, but they were not established in any association. Aleksandras Rackus was an active Lithuanian emigrant to the USA. In 1934 he presented his collection to the cultural museum of Vytautas the Great.

After the war, a large collection of Lithuanian coins was gathered by S. Launcevicius who later sold it to the museum of Siauliai. Other owners of comprehensive and valuable collections are: A. Kubilas and Z. Pazaurauskas of Vilnius, and M. Balcius from Sventoji. A. Kubilas has a valuable collection of Lithuanian medals and coins. Z. Pazaurauskas--a rich collection of European thalers and medals, whereas M. Balcius owns a collection of coins that have been in circulation in Lithuania. The Lithuanian National Museum as well as M. K. Ciurlionis Art Museum possess the most valuable public collections.

The first one has collected most of the hoards found after the war, whereas the latter one stores hoards found before the war. The first one has about 70 thousand, and the second, 150,000 of numismatic exhibits. Collections of other museums are small.

A few words about hoards now. Lithuanians became anxious about hoards as early as the middle of the 16th century. The issue of ownership thereof was legally determined in the Second Statute of Lithuania of 1566. Article 20 of division 9 was called "On finding of a hoard hidden in earth of other places." The article said: "If someone happens to find a hoard, money, silver, gold, or something else that can be sometimes found in the earth, in his own land, the hoard should belong to the one who owns the land. In case it (the land) is owned by someone else, half of it should be given to the one who owns the land where the hoard was found and the second half can be retained in the finder's possession."

The same applies in case if the land is mortgaged, it should be divided into two. Furthermore, if someone searches for a hoard deliberately, and succeeds, he must then give everything to the owner of the land. No oath should be taken in case someone denies that. Article 30, division 9 of the Statute of 1588 only slightly differs from the quoted article. The last paragraph of the quoted article in the Second Statute is most interesting. It gives an impression that the behavior of owners of hoards often betrayed the hidden place.

Continued on Page 4....



## WORLD WAR II 10 PUNKTE RATION NOTE FOR LITHUANIA.

## 10 PUNKTE NOTE

Expire date April 30, 1945

Size: 135 x 74 mm.

Watermark: OST

One of the interesting collectable series is the German PUNKTE ration currency-like notes issued for the Baltic countries during World War II. Bearing expiration dates of either June 30, 1943, or April 30, 1945, these notes were issued in denominations of 1, 3, 5, and 10 PUNKTE. The 10 PUNKTE note is the scarcest by far, and is seldom seen.

**FACE DESCRIPTION:** On the left in a circle is a man carding flax. On the right is a woman shearing sheep. The text states, "Eastern region fabric point note. The holder of this note is entitled to purchase X points worth of fabric material. After redemption, cancel by cutting in half." The cutting was usually done diagonally in the upper right hand corner. In the upper left corner is the name of the country in German, "LITAUEN."

As can be surmised, these notes are sophisticated ration coupons with a currency-like appearance. Some notes bear actual serial numbers in the center, and some even have a serial letter "A" preceding the number.

Also on the face is the text around the circles which translates, "Flax and Wool, Earth's Blessing." and the bottom text, "Issued by order of the Commissar of the Eastland." The Commissar was Alfred Rosenberg (1893-1946), a German native of Tallinn, Estonia, who was appointed by Adolph Hitler to his position on July 17, 1941.

**BACK DESCRIPTION:** The text translates: "All fabric materials are noted in a separate list, which may be inspected at any textile goods store. FIVE EVALUATING EXAMPLES," followed by those examples with how many points it cost. "Anyone using this for evil will be prosecuted."

There are several varieties with these notes. On the back side in small print at the bottom is the name of the printers, written in German: Lettlands Wertpapierdruckerei, Riga." However, some scarcer ones are known



Alle Spinnstoffwaren sind in einem  
Warenverzeichnis aufgeführt, das  
in jeder Textilverkaufsstelle  
einzusehen ist

## Beispiele für die Punktbewertung:

Baumwollstoff 80 cm . . . pro Mtr.	8 Punkte
Leinenstoff 80 cm. . . . .	8 "
Wollhaltiger Anzugstoff 145 cm . . .	16 "
1 Männerhemd aus Baumwolle . . . .	20 "
1 Paar Männer-Socken . . . . .	4 "
1 Frauenschlupfer, Kunstseide. . . .	7 "
1 Frauenkleid, Halbwolle . . . . .	80 "
1 Männer-Arbeitsjoppe, Halbwolle . .	42 "



Gültig bis zum 30. April 1945  
Missbrauch wird bestraft



Visos verpalų medžiagos  
sužymėtos atskirame sąraše,  
kurį galima matyti kiekvienoje  
tekstilės prekų krauturėje

## Punktų įvertinimo pavyzdžiai:

Medviln. medžiagos 80 cm, metras . .	8 punktai
Lininės medžiagos 80 cm, metras . . .	8 "
Pusviln. medžiagos 145 cm kusiui, metras . . . . .	16 punktai
1 medviln. vyrišk. marškiniai . . . .	20 "
1 pora vyriškų kojinių . . . . .	4 punktai
1 dirbtinio šilko moteriškos kelnaitės .	7 "
1 pusviln. medžiagos suknelė . . . .	80 punktai
1 pusviln. medžiagos vyrišk. darbo švarkas . . . . .	42 punktai



Gatuoja ligi 1945 m. balandžio mėn. 30 d.  
Pasinaudojimas piktnaudžiaus

LETTLANDS WERTPAPIERDRUCKEREI, RIGA

with a Latvian text, "Rīgas litogrāfija un ofset spiestuve atļ 3153." The notes with the date 1943 on the back are scarcer than those with the 1945 date, as the former were nearly all redeemed. The 10 punkte, however, is extremely scarce in any version. The example illustrated here bears the blue and light blue color that made it easily identifiable from the other denominations. We have not heard of any of these notes with 1944 expiration dates.

These notes are listed in the new book, "World War II Remembered," by Fred Schwan, listing values and different versions of each note for each Baltic country. An excellent article by William A. Haskell entitled, "Research Reveals Baltic Ration Coupon Uses" appeared in the July 1, 1981 issue of COIN WORLD, which was reprinted here in The Knight.

**TRENDS:** Current trends, as listed in the Schwan book for EF condition are as follows: (1943) 1 punkte--\$65; 3 punkte--\$110; 5 punkte--\$110; 10 punkte--\$130 w/o number, \$150 with number. 1945 date: 1 punkte--\$45-50; 3 punkte--\$75-80; 5 punkte--\$75-80; 10 Punkte--\$100-\$110. The punkte notes from Lithuania are the scarcest of the three countries. Trends for Latvia and Estonia are lower.



# A SURVEY OF THE SCIENCE OF LITHUANIAN NUMISMATICS AND SOME OF ITS PROBLEMS

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In 1588, rumors about a treasure sprang up. Nikolojus Dulackis, a gunner, asked the King to give him permission to search for a hoard in the environs of Gardinas. A case very characteristic of that period was the story of Andrius Augonis found in the court books of Birzai of 1696-1699. The said person was accused of digging a hoard worth several dozens of pieces of gold or thalers in the fields of the Daniunai village on June 3, 1696.

The whole story began when on his way home one evening, A. Augonis saw a fire rising from the earth in the fields of the Daniunai village. "Money was on fire." A. Augonis succeeded in talking Mykolas Skisciunas, a tailor, into digging out the hoard. First of all, they went to a sorcerer who dispersed the spell by pouring wax into water. The fortune seekers dug a pit in the place where the fire was first noticed, but found nothing. Some time later, A. Augonis was sent to buy malt for beer for the master. After that, men from the Daniunai village found a pit and imprints of a bowl in the fields. News that a hoard was found soon reached the landlords and legal proceedings were started. A. Augonis and his brother were tortured, but they did not confess to have found the hoard. The case was cancelled when the owner of one of the brothers threatened he would demand a fine in case his subject was injured or killed.

In 1764, two noblemen, Dovydas and Mykolas Pozecas, were caught by a land owner in the village of Uzumiskis when they were going to dig a treasure trove hidden under the dirt floor of a house. The detention act has been preserved.

The Lithuanian Statute was valid in the part of Lithuania occupied by Russia from 1795 till 1840, it was in force in the part which fell under the reign of Prussia from 1795 till 1807. Later on, the Russian legislation and the code of Napoleon were in force there. The legal regulation of the ownership of hoards was not changed. Starting with 1850, hoards found in the Kingdom of Poland had to be taken to the mint for registration and evaluation.

Since 1859, registration and evaluation was undertaken by the Imperial archaeological commission in St. Petersburg. Popular coins were returned to the finder of the hoard or (which happened most often) went to the mint for recasting. Valuable coins were taken by the Hermitage or the Warsaw University. Situations in the territory of main Lithuania was very much the same. In 1856, the governor general of Vilnius issued an order obligating to send all the hoards found in the province of Vilnius, Kaunas, Gardinas, and Minsk to the provisional archaeological commission in Vilnius. As the activities of the commission were suspended in 1865, all hoards were sent to St. Petersburg again. In 1887, the governor of Kaunas issued an order obligating to send all the hoards found in the province of Kaunas to the committee of statistics.

Regardless of the joint efforts of the scientific society, only a small part of the hoards were registered. Finders of hoards most frequently sold the coins to jewellers, watchmakers, and metal dealers. The underlying causes were: legal and cultural illiteracy of the society, and their negative attitude to authorities. For example, in 1914 a fortune seeker, J. Kairys, found a hoard of 17th century coins. In fear of the Russian police, his father hid the hoard and could not find it afterwards.

When an independent state was established, the situation did not change much. In 1919, a State archaeological commission was established, and regulations on the protection of ancient monuments adopted. Hoards had to be presented to the commission for investigations. Articles 430, 538 and 539 of the Civil Code read that after the contents of the hoard was investigated and the items established as being valuable, the full value of the hoard had to be reimbursed for the finder.

The commission was entitled to determine the archaeological and historical value as well as the scarcity of items purchased. Police had to be informed that a hoard had been found. This procedure was long-lasting and disadvantageous for the finder, therefore coins were most frequently distributed and sold. It was most often too late that scientific institutions learned about hoards. A hoard dating to the 14th century was found by fishermen in 1933 in the river at the Sanciai suburb of Kaunas. Most of the things were immediately taken to a goldsmith. Professor E. Volteris managed to save part of the hoard the moment the goldsmith was about to melt them.

One treasure seeker who found the Geliogaliai hoard of jewelry took it to an antiquities shop. Purchase of hoards ensued problems as well. The dean of Skaudvile complained in his letters to the commission that he had spent much more money to purchase a hoard of ingots than the commission was suggesting. It is interesting to know that collaborators of the main museum of Lithuania, the cultural museum of Vytautas the Great, were engaged in private collections. They used to buy rare coins. We would find rather strange things happening at the time. The commission returned duplicates of Nasvyčiai, the most valuable golden coins hoard found in Lithuania, to the owner: Dr. Aleksandras M. Rackus.



Dr. Aleksandras M. Rackus

(1893-1965)

Rackus was responsible for the numismatic collection of the museum, and refused to buy the Eiguliai hoard on the grounds that it contained no valuable coins. The same A. Rackus, however, recommended the finder a collector who could buy the hoard. The latter bought the hoard and left it for description at the museum. A. Rackus soon left for the United States and the collector could not get his coins back. The cause of all the difficulties was the lack of the state's attention to the historical heritage.

After the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, its legislation entered into force. Hoards were declared property of the state. They had to be brought to state financial bodies. The finder could be awarded a premium amounting to 25% of the total value of the hoard. Silver and gold did not cost much till the 1970s. Salaries were low, too, and coins were not valued. Finders did not even try to collect all the coins of a hoard and gave them away. With only few exceptions, museum employees did not care for the fate of hoards. They would not visit the findspots, nor did they draft protocols on findings or hoards. Militia interfered only in cases they felt something could be appropriated.

The situation became extremely bad in the 1980s when prices for metals went up. Museums could not afford to buy hoards. When the gate to the West was opened, prices of coins went up hundreds of times, whereas funds allocated to museums were reduced. The same occupational law is still in force. As I have mentioned earlier, inventory of hoards are made by the Lithuanian scientific center of cultural heritage. Information is rendered by traders in antiquities, collectors, and treasure seekers.



Secrecy of information is guaranteed. This has to be ensured with a view of gathering as much information on hoards as possible. The information gathered will be used to publish a catalogue of Lithuanian hoards dating to the 14th century to the year 1865. We do hope that bilateral trust between the state and finders will be facilitated by new legislation. The ridiculous relations between a research institution and persons possessing data about hoards will have to be changed.

The oldest hoards that we know are: the hoard of Spiciai (Radviliskis district) and the hoard of Padrupis (Kelme district), both found in 1760. In terms of material and scientific value, the most important are: the above mentioned Rybiskiai (Vilnius) hoard, found in 1930 and the above mentioned Nasvytaliai hoard, found in 1927. The Rybiskiai hoard contained 13th century ingots of Lithuania, Novgorod, and Kiev with a total weight of 50 kg. The Nasvytaliai hoard contained more than 300 gold coins of the 16th-17th century,



16th Century (1562) gold 10 ducat

two rings of gold with a ruby and emerald, a silver necklace with precious stones, an enamel portrait in a golden frame and 12 silver spoons. Both of the two hoards were ploughed up by peasants.

A valuable hoard was found near Seduva in 1991. It contained a lot of rare thalers of the 16th-17th century. The oldest hoard of ducats was found in Barvydziai. It was hidden in 1618. The oldest hoard of thalers, hidden in 1628, was found in Butkunai. At present we have information about 500 hoards of coins, ingots and jewelry attributed to the 14th century to the year 1865.

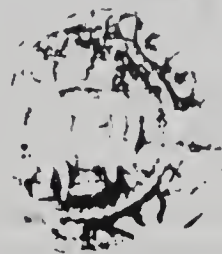
The majority of information comes from the documents of the Imperial archaeological commission, questionnaires of the land registrar of pre-War Lithuania, as well as museum statements on acceptance of exhibits and registration books.

And finally, I would like to touch upon problems relating to the investigation of the most ancient Lithuanian coins. Until 1984, seven types of the oldest Lithuanian coins were known in historiography, and only the first four ones, most common in ethnic Lithuania, were more intensively studied. Results of investigations of nearly two centuries were summarized by a Polish numismatist, R. Kiersnowski in 1984. He reviewed the diversity of dating employed by previous authors and suggested new versions of the interrelationship of coins and chronology thereof.

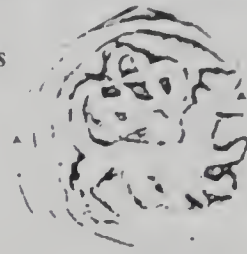
In view of the fact that R. Kiersnowski did not give a description of all the Lithuanian coins, did not take into consideration metrology of coins, did not read a single inscription on coins and did not give a detailed chronology thereof, myself and M. Balcius entered into polemics with him. Our study will be published in Munich, in the "Munstersche Numismatische Zeitung." The most recent data is presented in the abstract distributed for you.

The following methodology was employed in our investigations. First of all, on basis of average weights of coins and the standard Lithuanian mark, we computed the minting foot. Then we proceeded with the evaluation of inscriptions, emblems, and insignias. Results were compared to each other and to historical sources.

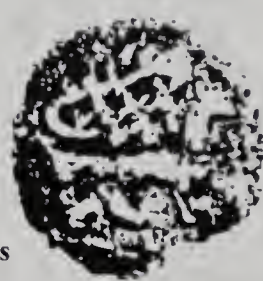
The oldest Lithuanian coin turned up in 1976. The Narkuna<sup>5</sup> hill-fort yielded a groat with a portrait of the sovereign and inscription "Wladislaus Rex P" on the obverse and a lion on the reverse arranged with tatar tanga on the reverse. Grasis and half-grasis bearing no inscription were coined in 1387 when Jogaila came to Lithuania to carry out reforms.



Jogaila portrait grasis  
from Narkunai hill

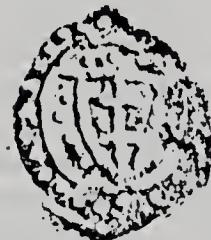


Jogaila portrait 1/2 grasis

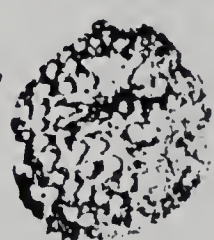


Archaeologists who published the said coins asserted they had an inscription which read "Magnus Dux" and attributed them to the Dukedom of Riazan subordinate to Vytautas. On the basis of the width of the letters which remained intact, we managed to compute the possible number of letters which went into the inscription. After that we analyzed the graphics of each letter or its remnants on the basis of paleography. When the inscription was deciphered, it was quite easy to find an explanation of the symbols used on the coins and determine their chronology.

Later on, in 1388-1390, Jogaila minted half-grasis bearing a double cross on the obverse and rider on the reverse. We decipher two kinds of slavic inscriptions: "Seal of the Duke," and "Duke Jogaila." One coin was particularly difficult as it had an obscure image

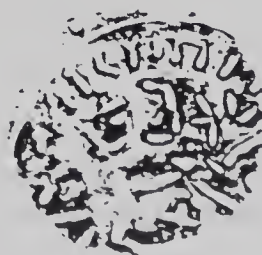


Jogaila's "fisherman's ring"  
1/2 grasis of 1388



on the reverse. After we looked through all the historical events of the period, we came to a conclusion that the coin might have a symbol associated with the Christening of Lithuania. We discerned a bent fish--one of the Pope's symbols, the so-called "fisherman's ring." Consequently, the coin was minted in 1388, when the Pope recognized the Christening of Lithuania.

Denars of Vladimiras Algirdaitis struck in Kiev, did not pose great problems, but their chronology was rather obscure. At the very beginning the one possibility we saw was to date them after the year of 1387. In 1991, a grasis of Vladimiras Algirdaitis was found with his



Grasis of Vladimir  
Algirdaitis, 1387



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# LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC DICTIONARY

23.



BY  
Jonas K. Karys

English Translation by  
V.L.G. Matelis

Continued from last issue...

**KONSEKRACIJA/Consecration.** A liturgical action by which a person or thing finally and firmly receives a religious status. In ancient Rome, it was a governmental function by which an object or place was given over to the gods, and somewhat later, the deifying of a deceased emperor or a member of his family. In the latter case, the Romans would issue a special coin on whose obverse, in addition to the portrait and the name of the deified person, there was also attached the word *DIVUS* (if a woman, *DIVA*), and on the reverse, most often, one or another symbol of consecration, or the inscription "*CONSECRATIO*."



Romėnų "dievų" monetos: A, dievo Pertinakso paveikslas vienoj pusėj ir konsekrac. simbol. kitoj; B, "dievui" Julijui Cezariui žuvus, jo giminaitis Octavianas monetoje įrašytas "*Divi F(ilius)*" — dievo sūnus...

**KONSULU MONETOS/Consular Coins.** Roman coins, struck in the period 335-327 B.C. (the era of Consular rule), also known as family coins.

**KONTRAMARKE/Countermark.** In numismatics, a small die strike into a coin's field, officially signifying a coin's change in value. Legalizing within a country an illegal (its own or a foreign piece) coins. A "renewal" of a worn out coin, etc. Countermarks are found on ancient Greek and Roman coins. During the middle ages and later, European rulers availed themselves of countermarks. In Lithuanian monetary history, countermarks were utilized by Vytautas the Great (legalizing for the Grand Duchy the Tatar silver coins), and by Sigismundus Augustus (in 1564, adapting foreign coins to local circulation).

**KONTRASIGNAVIMAS/Countersign.** A. An official sign placed upon a strange, unrecognizable, or illegible monetary token, authorizing, legalizing and approving it as acceptable and usable within the state. In the time of Vytautas the Great, the imposition of the Columns of Gediminas upon the Tatar coins. B. Granting a specific value to a coin of unknown denomination, as well as revaluing a known coin, whether foreign or domestic. Sigismund August countersigned Spanish talers for the Grand Duchy. C. Any other exception of a monetary symbol. That is accomplished with special dies, incused or placed in the coin's field, on the obverse, or on occasion, on both sides.



Kontrasignuotos monetos: 1, sen. graikų; 2, Vytauto kontrasignuota totorių mon.; 3, Ispanijos sid. taleris su Žyg. Augusto 1564 kontramarkė.

**KONVENCINIAI PINIGAI/Conventional Money.** Specific coins produced and emitted following an international agreement, for use in circulation in more than one state.

**KORONA/Corona.** 1. A former monetary unit of Austria-Hungary consisting of 100 hellers (in Hungary, 100 fillers), a silver coin. 2. Czechoslovakia's monetary unit of 100 Halers, a bronze coin. 3. Slovakia's monetary unit of 100 halers (1939-44), a bronze coin. 4. A Bohemian-Moravian Protectorate unit (1940-44), a tin coin.

Continued next issue...



Continued from page 5....

sign and slavic inscription: "seal," and "seal of the Duke Volodimir" on the obverse, and imitation of an arabic inscription on the reverse. We dated the grasis to 1387 and the other mentioned coins to 1388-1395. The same year, in 1387, grasis of Kaributas were struck in Novgorod-Seversk. They bear the sign of Kaributas and the inscription of "seal" on the obverse, and imitation of an arabic inscription on the reverse.



Kaributas grasis, 1387



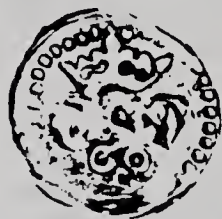
A Ukrainian numismatist N. Kotliar published one coin of unestablished dependency, which had a transversal cross on the obverse and a lion on the reverse. Investigators, however, did not take notice of the coin. On the basis of our knowledge in heraldry, we managed to determine that the said denar belongs to Skirgaila and was minted in Kiev in 1395-1396. In same has happened with a denar



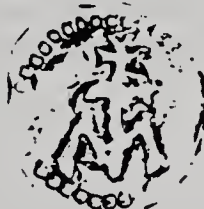
Denar of Skirgaila, 1395-1396



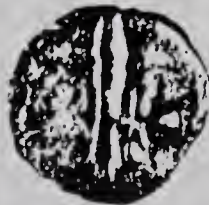
of the duke of Podolia, Teodoras Karijotaitis, which was struck in 1393. We fully supported R. Kiersnowski's opinion that coins with



Denar of Teodoras Karijotaitis, 1393



spearhead, arranged with a cross on the obverse and slavic inscription "seal" on the reverse, belong to Vytautas. When we found information about the economic measures employed by Vytautas in 1396 in his fight against the Golden Horde, we put forward an idea about a currency reform of the period. We dated the heavy coins of this type, i.e. grasis, to 1392-1396, and attributed the lighter ones to 1401-1413.



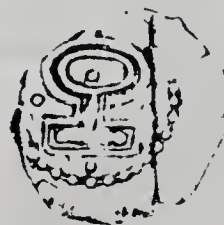
Grasis of Vytautas, lighter version 1401-1413



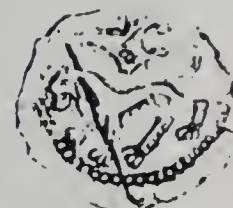
Grasis struck in 1396-1399 must have had a lion arranged with tatar tamga on the reverse, and the inscription "seal" around the Columns arms on the obverse. Chronology of these coins was suggested by the symbols they had. The lion of the dukedom of Vladimir, composed with a tatar tamga, was an expression of Vytautas' claim to the Ruthenia lands ruled by the Golden Horde.

Other coins of great interest are coins with a sign resembling the Cyrillic "Ju" on the obverse and a lion on the reverse. Coins similar to these bear the Column arms on the obverse, and one lion or two leopards or rider on the reverse. We found a sign, resembling two joined "Ju" letters in tables of coat of arms of Lithuanian dukes, compiled by a Polish numismatist, Marion Gumowski. It was the sign of Duke Jonas, who reigned in Pskov in 1396-1398. His father Andrius Algirdaitis ruled Polock in the times of Jogaila.

Historical information combined with the information given by coins, enabled to put forward a hypothesis that they belong to Andrius Algirdaitis who ruled Polock in 1398-1399. Investigation of



Denar of Andrius Algirdaitis, ca. 1398-99

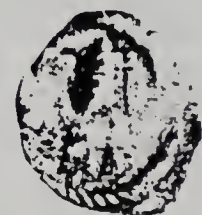


all the described coins gave an impression that the period of peaceful cooperation with the Teutonic Order, lasting from 1398 to 1401 was very peculiar, as far as coinage of money is concerned. German masters struck Lithuanian denars in the mints of Vilnius, Polock, and Smolensk.

The last coins of Vytautas, bearing a spearhead on the reverse, and the Columns arms on the obverse, were the most easy to deal with. Their metrology clearly indicated that Vytautas had carried out a currency reform in the second half of his ruling and issued new pence. In view of the fact that an administrative reform was accomplished and reparations from the Teutonic Order were received in 1413, we dated the currency reform to the same year.



Denar of Vytautas, 1413



R. Kiersnowski attributed coins with the Columns arms on the obverse and rider on the reverse to Kazimieras. We supplemented his arguments. It would have been easier to date these coins to the beginning of Kazimieras' ruling, but we chose a more complicated route. We associated their appearance with the financial



Denar of Duke Kazimieras, struck until 1492



reconstructions of 1451. A note about the mint master of Vilnius, Henrikas Sliogeris, dating back to 1489, showed that denars of Kazimieras were struck till the end of his rule in 1492. Foreign coins bearing signs close to the Columns arms belong to Crimean hanate.

As qualified studies of ancient Lithuanian money have just started, we expect new discoveries in the nearest future, as well as much more comprehensive data on coinage of money in Lithuania in the 14th-15th centuries.



## THE IRON WOLF BRIGADE

The Iron Wolf Brigade (Geležinis Vilkas Brigados) is the major component of the new Lithuanian Army. Commonly referred to as the Field Army, the IWB consists of approximately 2,500 full time active duty personnel under the command of Colonel C. Jereskas. Though its headquarters is located in Vilnius, components of the Brigade can be found throughout Lithuania. Realizing that its small army could never repel a major invasion from one of its larger neighbors, the new Lithuanian Army functions like a cavalry brigade located on the old American frontier. Strategically positioned around the country, the brigade is situated in a manner which allows it to confront any attack or insurrection by mustering its separated smaller components to converge at any attack location. In addition, the dispersed brigade is able to continue any struggle in a traditional guerrilla war manner.



ABOVE: Iron Wolf Brigade Patches (reduced in size)

The IWB's first mission was the protection of the nation's borders during the terrible days following the Soviet attack on the Vilnius TV tower and the Parliament building. Thereafter, the brigade could be found wherever a Russian garrison remained until those Soviet units were finally removed from Lithuania in 1993.

The new IWB is not only composed of traditional infantry formations, but is augmented by mechanized units, consisting of tank and armored car units. A good number of its men are trained in helicopter and parachute landings. This brigade is the backbone of the new Lithuanian Army which has been accepted into NATO under a limited membership agreement. To date there have been periodic exchange of personnel and training given to the brigade and other military components of the Lithuanian armed forces by members of the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps, as well as units of other NATO nations.



AT LEFT: Iron Wolf Brigade Beret Badge Insignia

When on duty, the IWB wears a camouflage, black and green splotched uniform with either a matching peaked cap, Soviet helmet, or green beret. The peaked cap is similar to the old U.S. Army Ridgeway cap of the 1950-60 period, but with folded under material allowing for ear coverage in bad weather. Worn on the beret and peaked cap is a blackened

brass shield cap insignia with a Vytis (knight) center. The traditional Columns of Gediminas metal insignia is worn on each side of the open shirt collar. When off duty, members of the brigade wear a khaki green uniforms similar to the U.S. Army uniform of the 1970-80 period. For off duty and formal dress, shiny brass insignia is worn. In the Lithuanian military service, cloth shoulder patches are now worn on right and left sleeves to denote the nationality of the soldier and his assigned military unit. On the left sleeve of the IWB uniform is a cloth green flash rimmed in white bearing the word LIETUVA over a national flag of yellow, green, and red. On the right sleeve is worn the stylized Iron Wolf Head cloth patch adopted as the brigade's insignia. This same Iron Wolf Head insignia can be found on the unit's regimental flag and various motor vehicles. When in full dress, the members of the unit wear a maroon colored beret with a pre-war Lithuanian Army sunburst and oak leaf surrounded Vytis shield insignia. When in work, or off status, soldiers are allowed to wear a green beret with a full Iron Wolf holding a sword insignia. Illustrated here is that Iron Wolf insignia, and IWB patches.

Though small in size, the IWB is a tough fighting force. What it lacks in size it makes up in spirit and training. Many of its lightly armed members took part in the struggle against Soviet tanks during the Vilnius TV tower and Parliament siege. These soldiers stood eye to eye with the cream of the Russian Army until it was withdrawn from Lithuania. Their bravery has already been proven against overwhelming numbers with superior equipment.

Due to its size, the unit will never be able to duplicate the heroic deeds performed by its ancestors in the days of old. But there is no doubt that the Iron Wolf Brigade can perform the duties assigned to it by the nation's first democratically elected government in 50 years. The shoulder patch and cap insignia of the proud Iron Wolf Brigade are welcomed additions to any collection of military insignia.

## PLAY MONEY

A set of play money notes in denominations of .10, .50, and 1 "Kursis" has been issued "to support the Lithuanian culture in Lithuanian Minor." The notes are patterned after the 1922 Memel/Klaipeda currency. More information in the next issue of The Knight.





By VYTAUTAS ALEKSIEJUNAS

Translated from "Liaudies Kultūra" No. 94-1

The most important numismatic find in 1992 from the excavations of the Vilnius lower castle is a minting die. Actually, this is the 10th die for minting coins found. A couple of years ago, dies were found for coins, as it turns out, that were intended for Livonia. The current find is in good condition. It is the obverse die for a denar of King Alexander (1492-1506). [Figure 1] It is of iron, 7.5 cm long and weighing 112 grams. On the surface of the die is the Vytis emblem, and a renaissance letter "A," --the King's initial.

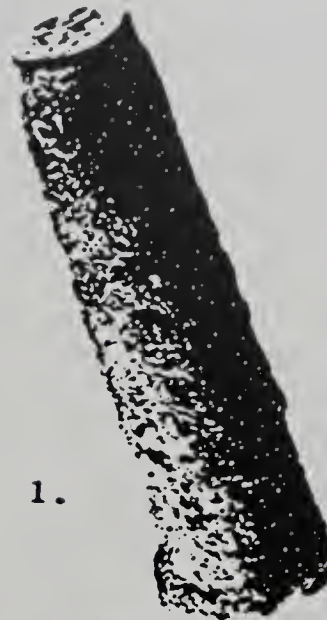
The arms are surrounded by a pearled circle which is visible in only a couple of places [Figure 2]. The illustrated denars were minted with similar dies [Figure 3]. However, denars with a renaissance initial are rarer than the earlier denars with a gothic initial. This statement is based on known examples of the coin.

The numismatic literature mentions denars without an initial, these are especially rare coins. In the Rumsiskiai ancient cemetery, gravesite No. 233, of the 36 denars found, only one was of this type. On that coin, in place of the initial, is a dot. The denars and half-grasis minted in Vilnius during the reign of Alexander are considered to have been minted in a more modern manner. These coins were minted in a manner considerably different from the technology of earlier Lithuanian coins. It appears that the Vilnius Mint at the end of the 15th century was being upgraded in compliance to the technology that was current in Europe at the time. The coins under discussion were minted in large quantities.

Due to their small value, the denars are not found in hoards and are generally found in gravesites and in excavations of old sections of cities. In the excavated old cemetery of Alytus, over 200 examples were found. The denars are found together with other 16th and even 17th century coins. Of interest is the location where the die was found. It was found on the outside of the building [Figure 4, at the site marked "X"]. It was found in a layer dated as being from the first half of the 16th century and together with it was a Prague groschen of Vaclov IV. The location of the find suggests that it is a chance find and it is not known how it happened to have ended up there. Its find does not suggest that there was a mint in the Lower Castle at the time. It is believed that the Mint during the reign of Alexander was on Vokieciu [German] Street.

**NOTES.** 1. Kuncevicus, A. "Livonijos pinigų spaudai Vilniuje." KULTUROS BARAI 1991, No. 7, p. 74-75. This article describes 8 dies: 5 for the obverse and 3 for the reverse. After a long conservation process, it became clear that (one more item from the find) was a tool similar to an obverse die.

2. The dies were conserved at the P. Gudynas Museum Piece Restoration-Conservation Center. The work was done by Mrs. G. Gleizniene.



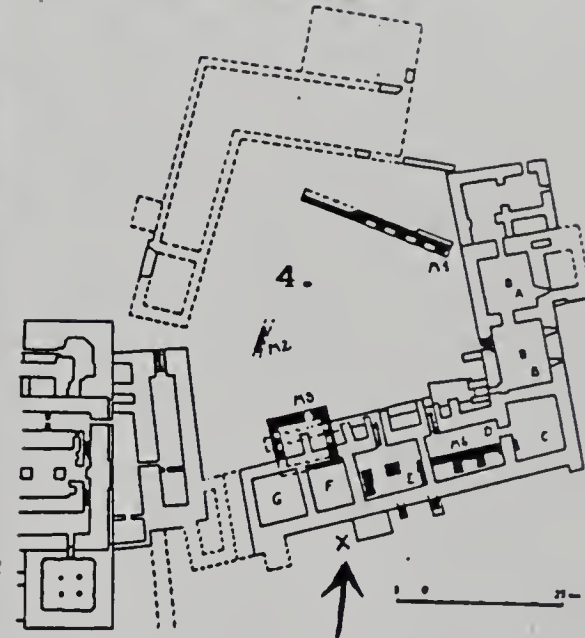
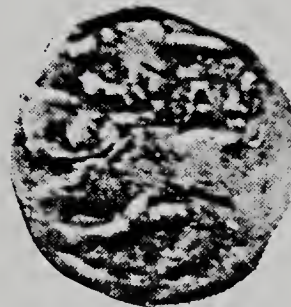
1.



2.



3.



## COIN MODEL FEATURES FLAX

Illustrated below is an interesting 81 mm. diameter plaster model from 1924 for a proposed 2 Centai coin. It shows flax in bloom. The model was the creation of Juozas Zikaras (1884-1944),

who designed Lithuania's coins dated 1925, 1936, and 1938.

Although this design was not adopted, the original plaster model is in the collection of Ciurlionis Museum in Kaunas.

As things turned out, a flax design was used on the reverse of the 5 Litai silver coin, minted in England.





## WANT/FOR SALE ADS

**FOR SALE:** Numismatic books for your library. *Lithuanian Military Orders, Decorations, and Badges 1918-1940* by Astikas; *Numismatics of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania* by Sajauskas & Kaubrys; *Radvilas Medals* by Vincas Ruzas; *Coins Tell a Story* by Zenonas Duksa; *Decorations in the Republic of Latvia 1918-1940*. Increase your knowledge.

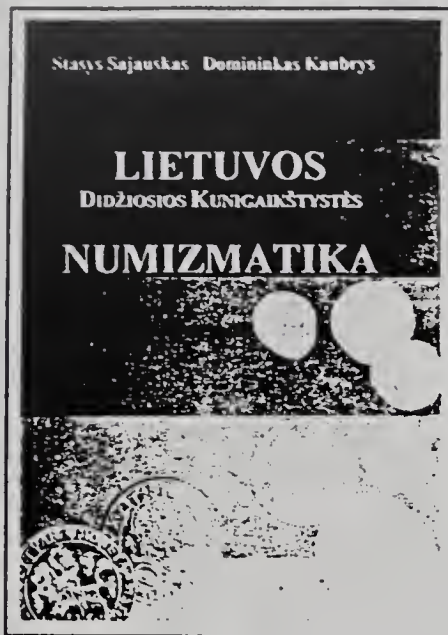
ALSO, the following Lithuanian banknotes: P-3 20 Centu, Sept 10, 1922 VF+; P-7 1 Centas, Nov 16, 1922 UNC (serial letters A, B, or O); P-8 2 Centu, XF (Serial letters C, F, or G); P-9 5

Centai, XF; P-10 10 Centu, XF; P-11 20 Centu XF; P-25 100 Litu 1928 VF-XF; P-27 1930 20 Litu, XF.

WRITE: Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224. Also WWII LITAUEN Punkte notes for sale.

**WANTED:** Books on Lithuanian history in English, pre 1980 (no Chase, Norem, Jurgela), picture postcards of Lithuania and Memel (pre-1940 only). Write first. J. R. Greene, 33 Bearsden Road, Athol, MA 01331.

**WANTED:** A 1993 10-Litu Papal visit commemorative coin. Dr. Kenneth K. Humphreys, 23 Hidden Lake Drive, Granite Falls, NC 28630.



**WANTED:** If anyone of our members is planning a trip to Lithuania in the next few months, please contact the editor of the Knight, F. Passic.

## LATVIAN ORDERS, MEDALS, & DECORATIONS BOOK PUBLISHED

The Latvijas Enciklopedija in Riga has published a hardcover, colorful book entitled **APBALVOJUMI LATVIJAS REPUBLIKĀ 1918-1940** [Decorations of the Republic of Latvia 1918-1940], by Kristine Ducmane. This 112-page book lives up to its title, and colorfully illustrates with photographs and line drawings each decoration of the pre-WWII Latvian Republic. The book is comparable to the Lithuanian Orders, Decorations & Badges book by Astikas.

Of interest to Lithuanian collectors is the fact that many Lithuanian soldiers helped fight enemies of Latvia in the period following World War I, and received certain Latvian decorations. In addition, there are Baltic-related items covered, such as the Badge of the Firemen's Unions of the Baltic States (page 59). This rare badge (1926) features the colorful flags of the three Baltic countries.



The book is easy to follow, as it is written in four languages: Lettish (Latvian), French, English, and Russian. The reader will notice some similarities between Lithuanian medals/decorations and some of the Latvian ones. At the end of the book are several helps, such as a dictionary of notable personalities, drawings of different ribbons, designs, and a summary of the book in the various languages. This book would make a nice reference source in any Baltic collector's library.

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